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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of	:	
HOLLY K. ARNELL	:	
Application No. 10/044,241	:	DECISION ON PETITION
Filed: 01/14/2002	:	
Attorney Docket No. 647.00IPA	:	

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.181, filed July 3, 2003, requesting withdrawal of the holding of abandonment in the above-identified application. The application file was recently forwarded to the Office of Petitions for a decision on the merits. The undersigned immediately reviewed the petition upon its receipt and rendered the decision below. The Office sincerely apologizes for any inconvenience.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

This application was held abandoned for failure to timely respond to the nonfinal Office action of November 5, 2002, which set a three (3) month shortened statutory period for reply. Accordingly, a reply was due on or before February 5, 2003.

Petitioner states that he submitted a timely reply to the nonfinal Office action via facsimile transmission.¹ Petitioner provided the Office with a copy of the previously transmitted Amendment, bearing a certificate of facsimile dated February 4, 2003, which would have rendered the reply timely if received.

The file record does not include the originally submitted papers. Failure to receive correspondence which includes a certificate of mailing or certificate of facsimile transmission is addressed in 37 CFR 1.8(b), reproduced below:

¹ The Office notes that petitioner transmitted the reply to the correct fax number for submissions of communications before final to TC 3600, as it existed on that date.

In the event that correspondence is considered timely filed by being mailed or transmitted in accordance with paragraph (a) of this section, but not received in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office after a reasonable amount of time has elapsed from the time of mailing or transmitting of the correspondence, or after the application is held to be abandoned, or after the proceeding is dismissed, terminated, or decided with prejudice, the correspondence will be considered timely if the party who forwarded such correspondence:

- (1) Informs the Office of the previous mailing or transmission of the correspondence promptly after becoming aware that the Office has no evidence of receipt of the correspondence;
- (2) Supplies an additional copy of the previously mailed or transmitted correspondence and certificate; and
- (3) Includes a statement which attests on a personal knowledge basis or to the satisfaction of the Director to the previous timely mailing or transmission. If the correspondence was sent by facsimile transmission, a copy of the sending unit's report confirming transmission may be used to support this statement.

The petition satisfies the above requirements of 37 CFR 1.8(b). Accordingly, the holding of abandonment for failure to timely file a reply to the nonfinal Office action of November 5, 2002, is hereby withdrawn and the application restored to pending status.

The copy of the reply received with the petition will be accepted in place of the reply shown to have been transmitted by facsimile on February 4, 2003.

Telephone inquiries regarding this decision may be directed to the unsigned at (571) 272-3211.

This application is being referred to Technology Center AU 3637 for appropriate action in the normal course of business on the reply received with petition.

Christina Tartera Donnell

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